

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

### Claims pending

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-22.
- After this Response: Claims 1-22.

**Claims Canceled or Withdrawn Herein:** None

**Claims Amended Herein:** Claims 1, 11, 12, 17 and 22.

**New claims:** None

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed information processing system, comprising:

a client device interface adapted to receive requests for electronic information from a plurality of remote devices;

a stateless module manager adapted to receive and route said requests from said client device interface; and

a plurality of information modules,

wherein said information modules register with said stateless module manager and the stateless module manager routes said request to an appropriate one of said plurality of information modules in accordance with a type of information requested[[.]]; and

wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of request types, said request types comprising:

on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

1                   scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
2                   said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
3                   subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

4                   event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
5                   from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

6

7       2.   **(Original)**   The distributed information processing system as  
8       recited in claim 1, wherein the requests to the device interface are formatted as an  
9       HTML or plain-text formatted e-mail.

10

11       3.   **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
12       system as recited in claim 1, wherein the appropriate one of said plurality of  
13       information modules generates a response that is returned to said stateless module  
14       manager, and wherein said stateless module manager routes said response to said  
15       client interface device for delivery to a requestor.

16

17       4.   **(Original)**   The distributed information processing system as  
18       recited in claim 1, wherein said requests and responses are formatted as  
19       serializable Java objects.

20

21       5.   **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
22       system as recited in claim 1, wherein said requests are made to said stateless  
23       module manager as one of a synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein  
24       synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein  
25       asynchronous requests are processed and returned when completed.

1       6.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein instances of said stateless module manager  
3 are created each time a new request is received and discarded after the request has  
4 been handled.

5  
6       7.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
7 system as recited in claim 6, wherein instances of said stateless module manager  
8 are stateless and multi-threaded.

9  
10     8.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
11 system as recited in claim 1, wherein information modules are loaded locally and  
12 remotely, wherein local modules reside on a same physical device as said stateless  
13 module manager, and wherein remote modules are located on other devices.

14  
15     9.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
16 system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between locally loaded  
17 modules and said stateless module manager is accomplished via memory calls,  
18 object inheritance or inter-process communication.

19  
20     10.   **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
21 system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between remotely loaded  
22 modules and said stateless module manager is accomplished via TCP/IP sockets.

1       11. **(Currently Amended)** The distributed information processing  
2 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscription service further comprising  
3 comprises a subscription service that maintains a subscriber database, wherein  
4 information is sent by said information modules, and said subscriber database is  
5 consulted to determine to which clients users of said remote devices the  
6 information should be forwarded.

7  
8       12. **(Currently Amended)** A method of receiving and responding to  
9 requests for electronic information in a distributed information processing system,  
10 the method comprising:

11       receiving a request for electronic information at a client device interface;  
12       forwarding said request to a stateless module manager;  
13       consulting a registry of available information modules; and  
14       forwarding said request to an appropriate information module as  
15 determined in accordance with a type of information requested[.];

16       wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of  
17 request types, said request types comprising:

18       on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
19 a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand  
20 response;

21       scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
22 said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
23 subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

24       event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
25 from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

1       13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 12, further  
2 comprising:

3           maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said  
4 information modules; and

5           handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of  
6 responding to said type of information such that only one information module  
7 processes said request.

8  
9       14. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said requests and  
10 responses are formatted as serializable Java objects.

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12       15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein said  
13 requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a synchronous or  
14 asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-  
15 first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and returned  
16 when completed.

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18       16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 12, said method  
19 further comprising:

20           creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said  
21 request; and

22           discarding said instance after said response has been handled.

1        17. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium containing  
2 computer executable instructions for receiving and responding to requests for  
3 electronic information in a distributed information processing system, said  
4 computer executable instructions for performing the steps of:

5            receiving a request for electronic information at a client device interface;  
6            forwarding said request to a stateless module manager;  
7            consulting a registry of available information modules; and  
8            forwarding said request to an appropriate information module as  
9 determined in accordance with a type of information requested[[.]];

10            wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of  
11            request types, said request types comprising:

12            on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
13            a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand  
14            response;

15            scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
16            said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
17            subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

18            event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
19            from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

1           18. **(Previously Presented)** The computer readable medium of claim  
2 17, further comprising computer executable instructions for performing the steps  
3 of:

4           maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said  
5 information modules; and

6           handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of  
7 responding to said type of information such that only one information module  
8 processes said request.

9  
10          19. **(Previously Presented)** The computer readable medium of claim  
11 17, wherein said requests and responses are formatted as serializable Java objects.

12  
13          20. **(Previously Presented)** The computer readable medium of claim  
14 17, wherein said requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a  
15 synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled  
16 on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and  
17 returned when completed.

18  
19          21. **(Previously Presented)** The computer readable medium of claim  
20 17, further comprising executable instructions for performing the steps of:

21           creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said  
22 request; and

23           discarding said instance after said response has been handled.

1       22. (Currently Amended) A stateless module manager that  
2 manages a request for electronic information received at a mailbox, comprising:

3           a registry of information modules;

4           a module loading function for dynamically loading said information  
5 modules upon receipt of said request for electronic information, wherein said  
6 request is made as one of a serializable Java object, XML placed in an HTTP  
7 header, or an XML-RPC-enabled web server, wherein said request is either  
8 synchronous or asynchronous, wherein a synchronous request is handled on a first-  
9 in-first-out basis, and wherein an asynchronous request is processed and a  
10 response returned in accordance with a processing time of the request;

11           wherein said stateless module manager routes said request to an appropriate  
12 information module for resolution, and wherein said appropriate information  
13 module resolves said request and returns a response to said stateless module  
14 manager;

15           wherein said stateless module manager maintains a list of supported  
16 services provided by each of said information modules and handles service  
17 collisions such that if plural information modules register as supporting a same  
18 service by determining which of said plural information modules will handle said  
19 request;

20           wherein instances of said stateless module manager are created each time a  
21 new request is received and discarded after the request has been handled;

22           wherein said stateless module loading function includes local and remote  
23 module loading functions, wherein said local loading function loads information  
24 modules that reside on a same physical device as said stateless module manager,  
25 wherein said remote loading function loads information modules that reside on

1 devices logically connected to said stateless module manager, wherein said local  
2 modules communicate with said stateless module manager via one of memory  
3 calls, object inheritance, and inter-process communication, and wherein said  
4 remote information modules communicate with said stateless module manager via  
5 TCP/IP sockets; and

6 further comprising a user interface, wherein said user interface is adapted to  
7 configure said stateless module manager[.]; and

8 wherein said stateless module manager is adapted to receive a plurality of  
9 request types, said request types comprising:

10 on-demand requests, which are sent by a user of one of said remote  
11 devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

12 scheduled requests, which are sent by said user when said user  
13 desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a subscription service  
14 provided by one of said information modules; and

15 event driven requests, which are sent from one of said remote  
16 devices when certain criteria are met.

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18 23-31. (Cancelled)